



# TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

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## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO CONSIDER POLICY TO INCREASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### *CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 20-039: A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH AGENDA POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND ITS COMMITTEES*

The Abington Township Board of Commissioners will be considering a policy to increase public participation tonight, September 10, 2020 at 7 PM at their regular meeting. Resolution 20-039 is a resolution setting forth agenda policy and procedures for meetings of the Board of Commissioners and its Committees. This policy seeks to increase public communications, education, and engagement by and with the Township. This policy exceeds the Township's current requirements per the PA Sunshine Act.

Residents are encouraged to read the policy in full at [www.abingtonpa.gov/proposedpublicpolicy](http://www.abingtonpa.gov/proposedpublicpolicy). Below are several key points for the establishment of this policy. Resolution 20-039 seeks to:

- Establish a standard of operations for Township meetings to provide consistency and transparency to the public;
- Increase public participation by creating a new Committee consisting of all members of the Board to provide (3) three additional weeks for the public to be made aware of and comment on Township business that will be considered by the Board of Commissioners at regular Board meetings;
- Increase citizens speaking time by five (5) minutes on any matter their elected representatives will be voting upon through the creation of a new Committee;
- Enable the creation of special, standing, or ad-hoc committees to provide an additional forum for public discussion and vetting of business to be considered by the Board;
- Increase two-way dialogue with the public and the Township through the use of public information meetings as a new standard of business on significant matters of public interest that will come before the Board. This informal meeting type will encourage and increase the sharing of ideas and concerns amongst the public, elected officials, and Township administration. It will also result in the creation of a comment and response document that will address submitted resident questions in advance of a Board vote and be publicly available for residents' benefit;
- Establish administrative informal meetings as a new standard of meetings that will afford the public the opportunity to discuss proposed initiatives, projects, and matters with Township administration prior to Board consideration. Administrative informal meetings will most often be used to address concerns of residents who are most impacted by a proposed project, initiative or matter, and will not replace matters that warrant a public information meeting;
- Increase the opportunities for the public to comment and receive responses and be engaged in Township affairs.